

Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty and members of the Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on H.B. 6759, An Act Concerning Early Childhood. My name is Timothy Bartlett and I am the Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA.

Our YMCA is concerned about H.B. 6759. While we support a wage increase for all of Connecticut's childcare workers, this cannot be accomplished without an investment from the state of Connecticut. The current version of the proposed bill doesn't refer to how this proposal will be funded.

Early educators are some of the lowest paid workers in the economy. The average wage for a childcare worker is \$14.97, and for a preschool teacher it's \$15.18. Self-employed family childcare providers typically work much longer hours and average less than \$8.50 per hour. I respectfully ask the state of Connecticut make a commitment to increase childcare workers' salaries by supporting the industry with adequate funding.

Parents are already paying too much for childcare. We request, in order to pay our childcare teachers the salaries they deserve, the state of Connecticut provide us with the appropriate funding to make this a reality.

Thank You.